

The Ford Pit Disaster,

NOVEMBER 12th, 1880.

COMPOSED BY WILLIAM E. COON.

AIR,—“The Mines of Avondale”

Kind friends give ear unto my tale,
Which fills my heart with woe,
Of the hardships of a Miner,
And the trials they endure,
When seated by a cheerful fire,
When the frosty winds do blow,
Little thinking of the danger,
Of the Miners down below.

Oh it's sad and sorrowful is the tale
Which I now mean to tell,
May God protect the widows,
And the Orphans too as well,
The word it spreads like lightning,
That the pit on fire was,
Men Women, Children flocked around,
Never could they tell the cans,

It was the 12th day of November,
Eighteen hundred and eighty the year,
At half past six on Friday morn
The Heavens were bright and clear,
I see the people gather around,
What means those mournful cries,
It is the Widows and Orphans,
Their voices reach the skies.

Some hundred men were in danger,
Their hearts were filled with woe,
May God protect those miners,
That are working down below,
Why are those women weeping,
Their hearts are filled with woe,
Forty four poor noble miners,
Are yet lying down below.

There are many friends with sorrowful hearts,
And many to be found,
Were forced to go into a mine,
To die beneath the ground,
But cruel as their lot may be,
The half we do not know,
Of those poor unfortunate miners,
That were working down below.

Oh hear the children's voices,
It is a mournful tale
To know those prisoners are below,
In such a dreary jail.
They are locked within a coal mine,
Their faces we'll see no more;
I trust to God their spirits are on
That bright and happy shore.

It was not more than a month before
The mournful news we heard,
That the water broke in the Ford Pit
Six men were lying dead.
There was James Conway and Fraser,
Their names we'll never forget,
Were swept away by the water
That broke from the Old Bye Pit.

But now the scene is different,
The news is hard to stand,
That forty-four poor miners
Were taken from our land.
The Ford Pit is on fire,
The thought hangs on our minds;
That day shall never be forgot
By many at the Albion Mines

